

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 10661 122059Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
/035 W

-----122103Z 042597 /75

O R 122206Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1651

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 10661

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CG

SUBJECT: GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE: ZAIRE

1. IN A 50-MINUTE TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO FOREIGN POLICY ON APRIL 12, GISCARD DISCUSSED PRIMARILY AFRICA, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AND EUROPE. HE SAID THE FOLLOWING ABOUT ZAIRE.

2. FRENCH INTERVENTION IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE AIR TRANSPORT OF MATERIAL. IT IS NOT A FIGHTING OPERATION. NO SOLDIER IS ENGAGED IN BATTLE AND NONE WILL BE. FRANCE INTERVENED BECAUSE IT WAS ASKED TO DO SO. GISCARD RECALLED THE ORIGINS OF THE MATTER: THE ZAIRIAN REQUEST TO THE OAU, MOROCCO'S AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, ITS LACK OF ADEQUATE AIR TRANSPORT AND THE CONSEQUENT ZAIRIAN-MOROCCAN REQUEST TO FRANCE. THE FRENCH DECISION WAS MADE AFTER STUDY AND REFLECTION.

3. THE REASON FOR FRENCH INTERVENTION WAS THE SITUATION IN AFRICA. BY INTERVENING, FRANCE GAVE TWO SIGNALS, FIRST, SECURITY -TO SHOW ITS AFRICAN FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE NOT BEING ABANDONED. SECOND, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 10661 122059Z

SOLIDARITY-TO DEMONSTRATE THE SOLIDITY OF THE BONDS BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA. FRANCE CAN NOT DESOLIDARIZE ITSELF FROM AFRICA. HE SAID THAT HE PREFERRED THAT FRANCE GIVE THE SIGNAL WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF THE U.S. SINCE THERE ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH EUROPE MUST MANIFEST ITSELF. GISCARD TALKED ABOUT AFRICA WITH SECRETARY VANCE BUT DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC

FRENCH PLANS. FRANCE ACTS FOR ITS OWN ACCOUNT IN LINE WITH ITS NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

4. ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS ON THE SPOT, ELEMENTS INFILTRATED INTO ZAIRE WERE RECENTLY TRAINED. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE NOT KATANGAN GENDARMES RETURNING AFTER TWELVE YEARS TO THEIR COUNTRY. THEY RECEIVED TRAINING IN REVOLUTIONARY WARFARE, BUT THE FRENCH DON'T KNOW WHO TRAINED THEM.

5. THERE ARE A FEW DOZEN FRENCH MILITARY IN ZAIRE, ALL THERE IN CONNECTION WITH TRAINING ON FRENCH EQUIPMENT. THE PLANES WILL RETURN TO FRANCE APRIL 16.

6. ASKED ABOUT CONSULTATIONS ON ZAIRE WITH THE PARTIES, GISCARD SAID HE WAS READY TO DO SO, BUT THAT THE COMMUNISTS CRITICIZED THE ACTION BEFORE ALLOWING TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS. HE HOPED SUCH FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH BOTH MAJORITY AND OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THE FUTURE.
GAMMON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS10661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770127-0005
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770466/aaaacfae.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc40bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2832413
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE: ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CG, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc40bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009